

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-9 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to define the invention more clearly. Support for these claim amendments can be found in at least paragraph 0045 and FIG. 2, 4 and 6 of the present application. It is respectfully submitted no new matter has been added to the present application by this amendment.

The Examiner objected to the title of the specification as not descriptive.

The title of the present application has been amended to read "IMAGE READING APPARATUS FOR SERIAL TRANSMISSION OF PLURAL IMAGE DATA". It is respectfully submitted the new title is indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed, and therefore, the objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuwahara et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,894,799, as set forth on pages 2-6 of the office action dated September 10, 2007. The Examiner asserted that the Kuwahara et al. reference discloses an image reading apparatus, reading means, recipient designating means and "transmitting means (automatic dialing unit 2, col. 3, lines 16-17) for transmitting the image data read by said reading means to the recipient designated by said recipient designating means, wherein said transmitting means serially sends plural image data (plurality of image data, col. 3, lines 47-48) corresponding to plural document sets read by said reading means to the recipient designated by said recipient designating means in a serial transmission mode (batch transmission function) of serially sending plural image data corresponding to plural documents sets".

Kuwahara et al. is directed to a facsimile machine (F) that is capable of performing a confidential transmission, broadcast transmission, etc. by batch transmission. Kuwahara et al. discloses that “[t]he transmission function includes a delayed transmission function for temporarily storing single image data, which is scanned by the scanner 11, in the image memory 5 and then sending it to a recipient at a specified time, and a batch transmission function for sequentially accumulating a plurality of image data, which is scanned by the scanner 11 respectively, into the memory box 5a and simultaneously sending these data to one or more recipients at a predetermined time” (see col. 3, lines 43-51 of Kuwahara et al.). The batch transmission function of Kuwahara et al. is adapted to collectively store a plurality of image data and thereafter simultaneously transmit the plurality of image data at a predetermined time by one transmission process.

Amended claim 1 is directed to an image reading apparatus so configured as to render image data transmittable to a device via a predetermined network. The apparatus of amended claim 1 includes “reading means for reading an image of a document to generate image data corresponding to the document image.” The claimed apparatus also includes “recipient designating means for designating a recipient to which the image data read by said reading means is sent via the network in response to a manipulation by a user.” The apparatus of claim 1 further includes “transmitting means for transmitting the image data read by said reading means to the recipient designated by said recipient designating means.” Significantly, the transmitting means of amended claim 1 “serially sends plural image data corresponding to plural document sets read by said reading means to the same recipient designated by said recipient designating means by a plurality of transmission processes in a serial transmission mode of serially sending plural

image data corresponding to plural document sets if a single document set is a group of documents to be transmitted by one transmission process".

According to amended claim 1, a recipient is designated to receive image data transmitted in accordance with a user's operation. Plural image data corresponding to plural read documents then are created. The created image data are transmitted to the designated recipient. The reading and transmission are repeated sequentially with respect to the plural documents. More particularly, the plural image data read from a plurality of documents are transmitted to the same designated recipient serially in a serial transmission mode. A user can transmit image data corresponding to plural documents serially to the same recipient, but need only designate the recipient once. More specifically, after designating the recipient, the user merely repeats the setting of documents for the plural documents and pressing the start key. The user need not designate the recipient again for each serial transmission. Therefore, the apparatus of amended claim 1 can improve a user's efficiency for serially transmitting a plurality of documents.

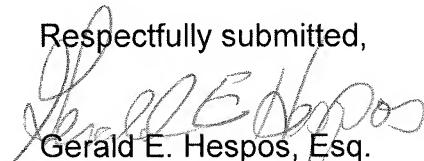
The Kuwahara et al. reference does not discloses or suggest a transmitting means that "serially sends plural image data corresponding to plural document sets read by said reading means to the same recipient designated by said recipient designating means by a plurality of transmission processes in a serial transmission mode" as recited in amended claim 1. To the contrary, Kuwahara et al. discloses collectively storing a plurality of image data in a memory and thereafter simultaneously transmitting the plurality of image data at a predetermined time by one transmission process. Therefore, it is respectfully

submitted amended claim 1 is patentable over Kuwahara et al. and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-9 all depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended claim 1 and are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above in regards to claim 1.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicants' attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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